

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PARIS 24187 01 OF 02 191844Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 CU-06 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 ACDA-10 IO-14 EB-08 OMB-01
TRSE-00 /119 W
-----104859 191914Z /42

R 191848Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7405
INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 24187

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: KE ZA MZ TZ
SUBJECT: FRENCH PRESS COVERAGE OF FOREIGN
MINISTER'S TRIP TO AFRICA

SUMMARY: FRENCH FOREIGN MINISTER GUIRINGAUD'S SUDDEN
RETURN TO PARIS AS A RESULT OF TANZANIAN GOVERNMENT
REFUSAL TO REPUDIATE STUDENT HECKLERS WAS THE MAJOR
FRENCH NEWS STORY OF THE DAY. IN GENERAL, FIRST PRESS
REACTION IS THAT HIS TRIP HAS NOT BEEN VERY SUCCESSFUL.
COMMENTARY AND ASSESSMENT BY THE MEDIA ARE EXPECTED
SHORTLY. END SUMMARY

1. PRIOR TO GUIRINGAUD'S DEPARTURE FROM PARIS, AFP AND
THE PRINCIPAL NEWSPAPERS NOTED THE
IMPORTANCE OF THE TRIP AS AN ATTEMPT TO BROADEN
FRANCE'S CONTACTS WITH AFRICA TO INCLUDE EAST AFRICAN
COUNTRIES WHICH WERE SELDOM VISITED BY FRENCH OFFICIALS.
FRENCH EFFORTS TO COUNTER THE INTERFERENCE OF THE
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PAGE 02 PARIS 24187 01 OF 02 191844Z

SUPERPOWERS WAS ALSO NOTED BY THE PRESS, ALTHOUGH NO
ACCOUNTS RECORDED ANY SIGNIFICANT GUIRINGAUD CRITICISM
OF THE US.

2. KENYA, ZAMBIA: COVERAGE WAS LIGHT OF THE NAIROBI
STOP ALTHOUGH THE PRESS PICKED UP GUIRINGAUD'S REMARKS
TO THE PRESS PARTICULARLY THE REITERATION OF THE GOF

POSITION ON AN ARMS EMBARGO TO SOUTH AFRICA (EXCEPT FOR
NAVAL CONTRACTS OF LONG DATE). THE FRENCH PRESS
SIMILARLY PUBLISHED VERY LITTLE ABOUT THE VISIT TO
ZAMBIA, NOTING PRIMARILY THAT THE RECEPTION WAS COOL.

3. MOZAMBIQUE: FRENCH PRESS INTEREST PICKED UP WHEN
GUIRINGAUD VISITED MAZAMBIQUE. FRENCH PRESS QUOTED
EXTENSIVELY FROM THE RATHER VIRULENT ATTACK MACHEL MADE
ON THE ENTIRE WEST, SPECIFICALLY INCLUDING FRANCE, FOR
ITS ASSISTANCE TO SOUTH AFRICA. SOME OF THE FRENCH
PRESS NOTED THAT THIS ATTACK WAS PROBABLY FOR INTERNAL
POLITICAL REASONS AND UNDERLINED POSITIVE REMARKS ABOUT
THE FUTURE WHICH MACHEL SUBSEQUENTLY MADE. LE MONDE
EDITORIALIZED, HOWEVER, THAT IF DE GAULLE HAD STILL
BEEN PRESIDENT, HE WOULD HAVE RECALLED HIS MISTREATED
FOREIGN MINISTER.

4. TANZANIA: THE FRENCH PRESS GAVE BANNER HEADLINES
TO THE HECKLING OF GUIRINGAUD AT DAR-ES-SALAAM AIRPORT

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PAGE 01 PARIS 24187 02 OF 02 191846Z
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UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 02 PARIS 24187

BY STUDENTS ATTACKING THE FRENCH POLICY OF FURNISHING

ARMS TO SOUTH AFRICA, AND GUIRINGAUD'S PRECIPITATE DEPARTURE BECAUSE THE TANZANIAN GOVERNMENT REFUSED TO REPUDIATE THE DEMONSTRATIONS. FOR THE MOST PART GUIRINGAUD'S DECISION WAS CONSIDERED JUSTIFIED SINCE THE FRENCH ARE CONVINCED THAT THE DEMONSTRATIONS INVOLVED TANZANIAN GOVERNMENT COOPERATION AND PROBABLY ENCOURAGEMENT.

5. THE INITIAL PRESS COMMENT IS THAT THE TRIP WAS NOT VERY MUCH OF A SUCCESS. DESPITE GUIRINGAUD'S STATEMENTS CONCERNING THE TOUGHTENED GOF POSITION ON SOUTH AFRICA, AND OTHER DEFENSES OF FRENCH POLICIES, THE CONCLUSION WAS THAT IT WAS DIFFICULT TO PLEASE EVERY GOVERNMENT. FRANCE COULD NOT EXPECT TO BE ON GOOD TERMS WITH THE MODERATE FRANCOPHONE COUNTRIES AND AT THE SAME TIME BE AUTOMATICALLY WELL RECEIVED ELSEWHERE IN AFRICA.
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PAGE 02 PARIS 24187 02 OF 02 191846Z

6. FRENCH TELEVISION IS PLANNING A ROUNDUP BROADCAST OF THE TRIP THIS WEEKEND AND THE NEWS WEEKLIES WILL NO DOUBT COME OUT WITH MORE ANALYTICAL AND THOUGHTFUL PIECES.
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